

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 15-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-6, 8, 15 and 21 are amended, and claims 22-25 are added. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 15, and new claims 22-25 can be found in at least Fig. 1, and the corresponding description in the specification. Claims 2-6, 8 and 21 are amended for form. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Fidler at the interview held April 17, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

I. Claim 21 Satisfies All Formal Requirements

Claim 21 is objected to by the Office Action. Claim 21 is amended in responsive to the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. §102(b) Rejection of Claims 1-6

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,266,964 to Takahashi et al. (Takahashi '964). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Takahashi '964 does not disclose one or more dummy electrodes of the same residual stress characteristics as the individual electrodes at positions other than positions corresponding to the pressure chambers, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, as agreed during the personal interview, Takahashi '964 does not disclose one or more dummy electrodes ...spaced from an outermost one of the individual electrodes with respect to two arrangement directions, as recited in independent claim 1.

Thus, as agreed during the personal interview, claim 1 is patentable over Takahashi '964. Further, claims 2-6, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable over Takahashi '964

for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

B. §102(b) Rejection of Independent Claim 8

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,536,880 to Takagi. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Takagi does not disclose a plurality of sintered members of the same residual stress characteristics as the individual electrodes at positions other than positions corresponding to the pressure chamber, as recited in independent claim 8.

Thus, as agreed during the personal interview, claim 8 is patentable over Takagi. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

C. 103(a) Rejection of Claim 7

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takahashi '964 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,174,051 to Sakaida. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sakaida does not remedy the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Takahashi '964. Sakaida is cited by the Office Action for only its alleged teaching of an actuator unit that includes a common electrode. Claim 7 depends from claim 1. Thus, claim 7 is patentable over Takahashi '964 and Sakaida for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

D. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 15-21

Claims 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,695,439 to Takahashi (Takahashi '439) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,512,793 to Takeuchi et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Takahashi '439 and Takeuchi do not disclose one or more sintered dummy electrodes at positions other than positions corresponding to the pressure chambers and that are ... spaced from an outermost one of the individual electrodes with respect to two arrangement directions of the plurality of individual electrodes, in an outward direction from the plurality of individual electrodes, as recited in independent claim 15.

Further, Takahashi '439 and Takeuchi, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest a plurality of sintered dummy electrodes at positions other than positions corresponding to each of the plurality of pressure chambers and that are ... arranged adjacent to each other so as to surround the plurality of individual electrodes arranged adjacent to each other in a matrix, as recited in independent claim 21.

The Office Action acknowledges that Takahashi '439 does not disclose the sintered dummy electrodes, as recited in claim 21. Further, Takeuchi does not remedy Takahashi's deficiencies. The alleged sintered members, layers 60 of Takeuchi, are not adjacent to each other and are separated by P/E elements 70. Thus, Takeuchi does not disclose a plurality of sintered dummy electrodes that arranged adjacent to each other so as to surround the plurality of individual electrodes, as recited in claim 21.

Thus, for at least reasons, independent claims 15 and 21 are patentable over Takahashi '439 and Takeuchi. Further, claims 16-20, which depend from claim 15, are also patentable over Takahashi '439 and Takeuchi for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. New Claims 22-25

As agreed during the personal interview, none of the applied references teaches or suggests the two arrangement directions, as recited in claims 22-25. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that at least claims 22-25 are in allowable condition.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 23, 2008

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